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Man. City, Greece tours loom

Chances are that Australian fans will see three major mid-season touring teams in action: the crack Manchester City, an English FA side and the national team of Greece.

All mainland capitals will have a match against either Greece or the FA team in June.

Greece will play in Melbourne (June 11), Adelaide (June 14) and Sydney (June 18) while the FA side will appear in Brisbane and Perth, at dates yet to be determined.

In May, Manchester City is likely to undertake an Australian tour, extended into New Zealand.

If they cannot make it, Everton or West Bromwich Albion will take their place.

All three are prominently placed in the English first division.

Manchester City's star-studded line-up would include internationals Watson, Royle, Channon, Kidd, Tueart, Hartford and the new wing sensation, Peter Barnes.

At present, Manchester City are the most "stylish" of all English teams.

Their clever, fast short-passing game is similar to the one employed some years ago by the great West Ham — except that City also have that "killer instinct."

They toured Australia a few years ago — but without their two big names of the day, Bell and Summerbee.

Let's hope this time they come with a full complement showing fans all that's best in English soccer.

Leeds United also volunteered for a tour — but the fee demanded was excessive.

They would also be forced to tour without their Scottish stars McQueen, Jordan and Gray, certain to be in Argentina for the World Cup.

Victoria will be staging a

match against Bobby Charlton's All-Stars, following their highly successful visit last June.

Some State Federations are expected to make a strong move to induce the ASF not to field the national side but State teams against all visitors.

FEBRUARY

The NSW Federation is still hoping to secure an overseas team for matches in February.

Dynamo Zagreb, the first choice, declined while Ferencváros of Budapest and Rapid of Vienna are not available because of the international duties of their stars.

Malta, Cyprus and Norway all offered to bring their national sides but these were, understandably, declined as extremely risky propositions from the financial and also playing viewpoints.

ASF vice president Mike Weinstein, now in Rome, is still hoping to be able to secure an attractive team from Poland, Yugoslavia or Czechoslovakia for a quick February tour.



Mike Channon, the current England international star likely to tour here in May with Manchester City.

NEWCASTLE REJOINS THE LIVING

We welcome Newcastle United to top soccer — the Philips League.



After years in the doldrums, Newcastle, this fast growing metropolis of 300,000 people, will at last regain the prominence it used to enjoy as the hotbed of Australian soccer.

In president Max Talbot, secretary Paul Trisley, manager-coach Alan Vest, a very strong, progressive board, active Supporters' Club led by Jock Taylor and an impressive line-up of players, Newcastle United seem to have all the ingredients needed to be an immediate success.

More than in the case of any other PSL club, Newcastle United enjoys the support and backing of an entire city from civic leaders, politicians, industrialists, professional men and the media.

Their home ground, the International Sports Centre, is one of the very best venues in Australia — and miles ahead of anything "enjoyed" in Sydney or Melbourne.

Let's hope that Newcastle United will be able to build on the current enthusiasm if not euphoria and the city will once again play the same leading role in Australian soccer which it did in the past.

Next week: Ampol Special!

Through special arrangements with the NSW Soccer Federation, next week we will publish an exclusive four-page Ampol Cup Supplement — bringing you the full history of the Cup, all the results of the 1957-1977 period as well as all the winning teams — plus photos of past great players and teams.

Also next week, we will publish a full guide to the past records of the 16 World Cup finalists — yet another SW exclusive.

Make sure of your copy now by placing an order with your newsagent or having it delivered to your home through an annual subscription of \$24, sent to Box 5061, GPO Sydney 2001.

Support the company that supports soccer



Germans enjoy Cup luck

Reigning world champions West Germany received a "dream draw" for the finals of the 1978 World Cup.

They must be regarded as certain to qualify for the second round from a group which also includes Poland, Mexico and Tunisia.

Hosts Argentina and three-times world champions Brazil have drawn tough groups giving credence to earlier FIFA announcements that, apart from the four top seeds, the others would really be drawn from a hat.

Holland, runners-up in 1974, cannot complain, either: apart from Scotland, they don't have much to beat in their group.

Amazingly enough, the draw has placed the four unfancied teams in two groups instead of splitting them wide apart.

This further reduces the chances of a major upset of a minnow — like our conquerors, Iran — making the second round.

Argentina, the host nation, is in a perilously difficult group from which any of the four teams could qualify without causing any surprise.

And should the always suspect Argentinians fail to progress one round further, the entire financial success of the tournament could be affected.

• Full draw, dates — P 5,

Hand-gliding yes, soccer no

What remote chance is there for soccer to be accepted by the snobbish, school-tieish Australian "Establishment"? Very little, indeed. Especially if the ABC is any guide.

Recently, at its annual ritual affair known as "Sportsman of the Year", the one-hour show on TV showed sportsmen and women from the whole Australian spectrum.

We are not arguing with the choice of the winner (golfer Graham Marsh), neither are we decrying some of the others who were in the running for the award.

But we find it curious — one should say pointed — that soccer, the world's No 1 sport, was so totally ignored that even the very word wasn't mentioned once.

Together with the famous and the successful, they showed clips of a motor cyclist, hand glider, ladies' sailor and even the winner of the bathtub derby; a total number of 25 men and women shown or mentioned.

But not a word about soccer. Not one word.

Now, in all fairness to the devastatingly unfair ABC, 1977 was no vintage year in Australian soccer.

But was it in hand-gliding, apart from the fatal accidents? Or in Rugby League, perhaps VFL footy? Yes, they were all included.

Surely, soccer did exist in 1977 as much as the majority of sports the ABC featured on this program.

We had the start of the first national championship — the first of its kind in any football code in Australia; yet the fact wasn't worth mentioning.

We did take part in the World Cup preliminaries, even if we didn't succeed. But isn't the ABC guilty of hypocrisy here by excluding the beaten Socceroos?

Don't we hear often enough the nonsensical claim that taking part and not winning is the important thing? Well, taking part we did.

The ABC even sent its Martin Royal on two long tours with the team — then decided to ignore the code.

In defence of the ABC: it wasn't entirely their fault. The votes in this program were cast by 26 judges: editors of "major metropolitan" newspapers in Australia and the ABC State sporting supervisors.

What is a major metropolitan newspaper remains unclear; this must be yet another arbitrary ABC classification.

The "Sportsman of the Year" award will remain an archaic, heavily slanted affair until the ABC decides to broaden its perimeters.

All specialised sporting publications — those fully devoted to sport, unlike the dailies — are excluded as well as the dozens of foreign language newspapers, now fashionably called the "ethnic press".

If the 26 judges, fair and just (?), had really tried to present an overall picture of Australian sport, they should have at least made the briefest mention of soccer; that we exist as much as hand gliding, bathtub yachtsmen, motorboat drivers, squash players and others — whom the rest of the world never even heard of.

SOCCER WORLD

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In December, the ASF held its annual meeting in Sydney and because of its importance, we publish excerpts from president Sir Arthur George's speech.

New deal plan for Socceroos

It is appropriate, I think, that I discuss the position of the national team against the background of soccer generally and also in relation to the financial implications of participation in the World Cup elimination matches in this part of the world pursuant to the existing format.

There are some significant figures of which you will be aware, namely that the total World Cup operation cost this federation a total of \$260,000 net. Of this there are some divisions of cost which are significant, namely —

1. Cost of air fares and accommodation for referees and linesmen — \$41,358.
2. Cost of air fares for national squad — \$66,000.
3. Cost of accommodation both outside and inside Australia for national team — \$55,000.

If FIFA is sincere in wishing to develop soccer in Asia and Oceania it must help cut costs in this type of situation.

It is apparent that with increasing inflationary pressures throughout Asia and the Pacific area, and the emergence of the Arab nations as a new force in soccer, participation in World Cup elimination matches for Australia in the present format is becoming a formidable financial and competitive task.

As I stated in my report, in the international sphere, of the five finalists in the Asian/Oceania zone, Australia is the only nation which is now relying on part-time players.

The dual handicap of using part-time players and having restricted financial resources, whilst playing countries — some of whom have unlimited resources and are able to keep their national team in intensive training continuously for a long period — has created a major and permanent problem.

BIG BURDEN

On top of this the format of the competition, requiring as it did this year home and away matches against New Zealand, two matches against Taiwan in Fiji (with catastrophic financial results, resulting in a loss of \$43,320) and four home and away matches against Korea, Hong Kong, Kuwait and Iran, places an unfair burden on all the participating countries, particularly, however, on Australia, in view of the nature of our resources and in our case the added distance of travel.

It is interesting to compare the position for European or South American countries where all the matches are, in the main, played with neighbouring countries with relatively short distances of travel.

Our team travelled 39,310 miles in the course of playing its elimination matches.

I think that Australia should take a stand against the involvement thrown upon it by FIFA with countries like Rhodesia and Taiwan in 1969 and in 1977 respectively, and at the same time press for an elimination round format that enables regional teams, for instance Kuwait and Iran and neighbouring countries, and Korea and Hong Kong and neighbouring countries, to play off before Australia (or whatever other country represents the Oceania area) becomes a participant.

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If we are successful in having a reasonable format and reducing travelling time and cost, this will meet part of the problem.

The other part of the problem is that we must accept the fact that our resources under present conditions will not permit us to compete in the World Cup other than by the use of part-time professional players and that we must do our best with the resources and the material available.

5. The ASF should determine that the reserve grades of all PSL teams should have at least seven players who are 19 years of age or under and ask the State federations to co-operate with similar proposals in respect to at least some of their competitions.

6. The ASF should adopt rules which would limit the number of imported players not eligible to play for Australia who can be included in any PSL teams; the rules to provide for a sliding

years; that Australia's World Cup participation can be only secondary in importance to a general improvement in standards at all levels.

We said this in 1973 when Australia did qualify for the finals and again in 1977 when she didn't.

The president's remarks about the staggering costs and glaring inequities involved in the World Cup campaign are all well founded.

But the fact is that Australia is a complete non-entity not only in Europe-dominated FIFA but also in Asia where the regional Confederation simply doesn't accept us as members.

Australia's peculiar geographical conditions and problems simply go unrecognised by FIFA.

MARATHONS

In 1965 we had to go and play in neutral Phnom-Penh the North Koreans; in 1969, after the Seoul three-country tournament, we were asked to play the outcast Rhodesians in Mozambique; in 1973 we accomplished another marathon travel and last year stretched this even further, right to the oilfields of Kuwait — after having to play in a frog-infested Fijian village yet another outcast, Taiwan.

In another part of his report, the president is wrong in claiming that all other teams in our World Cup group had full-time professional players, thereby indirectly absolving the Socceroos from the crime of failure.

The South Koreans are very much part-timers, much more than the Australians and the Iranians and Kuwaitis are no pros either, despite the occasional lavish bonuses.

But what Sir Arthur fails to mention is that under very similar conditions and circumstances and involving much the same marathon travel, in 1973 we did reach the World Cup finals — under a part-time coach.

In 1977 we failed pretty miserably — coming fourth out of five — with a full-time coach. And our opponents were almost identical on both occasions.

The president's seven proposals are all worth a detailed study — and we wonder whether any individual, club or association will bother to do just that.

The most revolutionary is his plan to eliminate imported players over a five-year period.

This would undoubtedly increase the selection possibilities for the national team — but would also affect the standard of the Philips League.

And that, after all, is what provides soccer's daily bread and butter, not the national team.

Our problem is not that we import players — but that we import many of indifferent or even poor standard; that our clubs are still not recruiting from overseas with a discerning taste but grub whatever is being offered in a "lucky dip" fashion.

A.D. PS: We welcome letters from readers on this subject. Please keep all letters to no more than 250 words and include your name and address, not necessarily for publication.



Sir Arthur George: New ideas

If we accept this fact we are left with the question of what do we do in the light of our 1977 performance to more adequately prepare for 1982.

The simple and only answer that is being pressed on us by some sections of the media and others, is to change the coach.

This of itself is not an adequate solution.

It is an emotional, short-term answer to a more complex problem. I think that one program that is called for is a new program to encourage and develop youth and to build on the foundation of the younger players in Australia.

I do not pretend that the views that I propose to put forward are perfect or final.

It appears to me, however, that they are an adequate basis for discussion in the search for an ultimate plan.

My proposal would involve —

1. The retention of those members of the national squad who are young enough to be in the right age group for playing in 1982.

2. That the ASF selectors in choosing the national team for match appearances, henceforth (irrespective of the dangers of defeat from visiting teams) select only players who would be available within the correct age group to play for Australia in 1982.

3. The formation in every area i.e. in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth, Tasmania and the ACT, of a youth squad in collaboration with the member federation in that area. Each squad should be selected by a selection and coaching panel which would include the national coach. The youth squad should be constantly added to or changed until stabilised.

4. The selection and coaching panel to set out basic programs for these youth squads, concentrating on the improvement of their condition, personal skills and basic strategic knowledge of the game.

scale aimed at an elimination of other than products of Australian soccer over a period of, say, five years.

7. When the squad is somewhat stabilised, to try and arrange with existing or new employers of the squad members, a part sponsorship in that they would be available, say, every day from 2 pm for training and coaching.

The last section of the program is essential if we are to increase our degree of professionalism.

Having determined and implemented such a policy, the question of choosing a national coach becomes important.

He should be a full-time coach as there would then be sufficient work for him to do.

I would be interested to have any views and proposals to commence a dialogue to approve this or an alternative suitable program.

Our comment:

To start off the requested dialogue...

On the whole, Sir Arthur took a pretty realistic overview of our World Cup bid.

It's particularly pleasing that he has, at last, adopted the same view we have been voicing for

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TOWN SURE TO GET ABSOLUTION

Bankstown's bid to return to the Rothmans League should be finalised at a meeting in Sydney on January 23.

Most clubs favour their retention, which would give the competition even balance at 14 teams.

Bankstown's refusal to pay their 1977 dues by the set date left them out on a limb, a debt which they settled in December.

Their difficulties stemmed from overcommitment to players in their return year to State League and regrettably due to lack of administrative expertise.

The new club executive, led by president Jack Innes, would today be one of the few clubs who could pay this year's fees immediately!

A few clubs, some with short memories, have not come to Bankstown's aid.

Some are concerned, not about 1978, but about what would happen in 1979 if any away-from-Sydney club was nominated to join as a country team along with Inter Monaro.

Two others appear very worried as to whether their relegation prospects will increase if Bankstown come in.

The undeniable fact is that Bankstown actually have as good a financial record over the years as any other club and a much better one than most of their detractors.

They were original members of the Federation, and did not show any default until last year, a debt that has been purged.

It is not long since a couple of present cleanskins were noted for the "elasticity" of their cheques.

ASF faces dilemma

The ASF is likely to consider the position of Jimmy Shoulder at its special executive meeting held next month in Sydney.

One school of thought is to follow worldwide tradition and dismiss a coach whose team has failed.

Others, however, would like to see Shoulder retained in another capacity, perhaps as a regional coach.

Whatever happens, it's pretty certain that Shoulder's days in control of the Socceroos are over.

Everything still hinges on the clubs and club coaches. If they are efficient and do their job well, the national team will be fairly successful.

If the clubs fail, so will the national side even if a trio made up of Helmut Schon, Mario Zagalo and Ron Greenwood takes charge of it on a fulltime basis.



Joe Vlasits—temporary appointment?

The question is what will the ASF do to find his successor — and when?

It would seem to be a big mistake to make a quick and hasty appointment and then regretting it at leisure.

The ASF should set a deadline — say August 31 — before a new, fulltime coach is appointed and, in order to find him, advertise extensively in Australia, Britain, Germany, Holland, France and other countries.

Until August 31, a temporary appointment would be enough — and the vastly experienced Joe Vlasits could fit the bill.

There is little need for the Socceroos to get together until August; State sides would be more useful against visiting teams from overseas.

But the ASF should bear in mind that any really top man from Europe will not be interested in the position on today's salaries.

It may be that the ASF will decide not to appoint a fulltime man at all; after all, in Australia it's a bit of a luxury to have a national coach with extremely limited duties.

If Holland, for example, could do without one for the last five years, making do with part-time team bosses, perhaps so can Australia.

NSW chief tips year of recovery

A higher standard of soccer, improved spectator and playing facilities and an exciting international programme are on the agenda of the NSW Federation.

Newly elected president Karl Rodny is confident that State soccer, under the financial backing of Rothmans, Ampol and Pepsi Cola, will prosper in 1978, having survived the initial trauma caused by the advent of the Philips League.

"We have no intention of becoming a mere adjunct of the PSL," Karl Rodny said.

"We have a vital function to fulfil by taking soccer to the suburbs and mobilising the often dormant resources of this vast city."

"I hope the clubs themselves will renew their efforts to regain their local supporters to watch the Auburns, Granvilles and others."

"Even Croatia will move out of the city, either to Canterbury or to Leichhardt."

Rodny said he was optimistic that the stunning decline if not disintegration of the once mighty APIA would be halted and the trend reversed.

"APIA have assured me that they would strengthen their team and would not transfer any more players."

"They are also considering the possibility of bringing out one or two classy Italian players for the season."

"If they can do this, we may see the re-emergence of the APIA fans who have vanished."

The NSW Federation — especially its first division Rothmans State League — wants to become a viable alternative to the PSL.

"We want to produce and build our own stars good enough to be selected for Australia."

"We find it totally unacceptable that any future national coach should limit his horizon

purely to PSL clubs and wouldn't even know what talent was available in State Leagues."

"This is not only unfair to the many talented players under our care but also to the national team itself which could well do with some transclusion."



Rodny: a bright 1978

The NSW Federation, with the help of Rothmans and Ampol, is mounting a solid promotional campaign to underline its claims for survival.

Rothmans have allowed one of their top marketing experts, John Scott, to double up as the NSW publicity officer and, together with Ampol, have agreed to increase their financial backing of State soccer.

A weekly radio show conducted by David Jack for the Federation may be supplemented by TV coverage: Channel 9 has already shown keen interest in the project.

"Of course, we are unhappy about the small crowds," Rodny

"Their exclusion was due to misunderstandings and administrative errors on their part; we had no choice but to uphold our rules on the financial status of clubs."

"Wollongong is a different story; they had two or three years to build a bridge towards their vast Illawarra Association and failed to do this."

"Maybe in a year or two, once they have put their house in order, the people on the South Coast can come back to us with an acceptable proposition — and we would be delighted to have them back."

The NSW Federation's plans for 1978 include a strong emphasis on coaching development.

"Our State Director of coaching, Joe Vlasits, will have his office in our Kent Street headquarters."

"He has our full support to develop new schemes and programmes for coaches as well as representative teams."

"We want to co-operate with the national director of coaching, Eric Worthington — but through the proper channels and on an equitable basis."

Former president Peter McCann and ex-NSW stalwart Tom Grimson, at present not on the executive, will not be lost to the code.

"Both will be active on our behalf; we need their experience and contribution to the code."

On the international scene, Karl Rodny predicts a bright 1978.

"We are still hoping to bring out a good team in February for a few matches."

"In June or July, we want two overseas teams to tour — this is the quota our member clubs have set for the competition period."

"We will insist on top teams and would like to see some from Spain, South America, perhaps Poland or Yugoslavia."

"A decision on this is expected very shortly. But I assure you that whichever teams do come, they'll represent top class."

— A. Dettre

Cricket ace on sticky wicket with unforgiving Churches

— By Keith Gilmour

So Jeff Thomson, Australia's cricket ace, slamming down his fast deliveries, wants to get back into soccer to play for Trident in the Queensland Second Division.

Thomson was suspended from soccer after allegedly punching a referee in July 1972 in the NSW Protestant Churches competition.

According to advice from Queensland the incident was 11 years ago, but this information was quite incorrect.

The ASF put a case for Thomson and the Queensland Federation before December's annual meeting of the Churches, but it fell on deaf ears.

Association secretary Roy Pearson told us that Thomson was welcome to appeal

personally to the Association's next general meeting, to be held in Sydney shortly.

"There is no precedent for a life suspension being lifted in our Association," he said.

"However, I believe that he will receive more than a fair go if he does decide to come along."

Thomson is quoted as saying at Bankstown Soccer Club recently that he will not receive consideration if he appears.

Why doesn't he try it — what has he to lose? It is believed that Thomson's employers 4IP would be glad to see him back in soccer.

Although they do not want to do so, Queensland could themselves admit the player conditionally.

The NSW Protestant Churches is not affiliated to the Australian Churches SFA or the Australian Federation, and they were not affiliated when the incident occurred.

There is also the case of Billy Docherty, who was given a life suspension in NSW on July 1, 1974.

Club interests were impressed by the interest Docherty showed in the game, especially as a junior coach, and worked to have the suspension lifted.

This occurred on October 5, 1977, and he is subject to a two-year probationary period before he is fully cleared of the alleged misdemeanour.

SOUTH SYDNEY DISTRICT SOCCER CLUB

Requires players to start training for the 1978 season on January 25, 6.30 p.m., at Booralee Park, Botany and then every Wednesday from then on.

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REGIONAL COACH

The New Zealand Football Association invites applications for the position of Northern Regional Coach.

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Applications stating full details of experience and qualifications, with supporting documents, age, marital status should be sent to:

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PHILIPS LEAGUE ROUND-UP

Saints start slow march

An aura of uncertainty surrounds St George-Budapest's early team building efforts.

Rather annoyed with their 1977 season, they would like to start climbing back to the top but it may take longer than one year.

Some familiar faces will be missing: Paul Coton is likely to join Olympic and Willie Hamilton is also transfer listed.

Young Mark Jankovics is hankering for a transfer — and Marconi are interested even at the respectable asking price of \$8000.

Captain and international fullback George Harris is also unsettled, due to a contract dispute.

On the credit side is the news that Doug Utjesenovic has been pronounced completely fit by orthopaedic surgeons and has re-signed for the Saints.

At least three overseas recruits will arrive within weeks: a winger from Yugoslavia and two others from Britain.

One coloured striker from the Portuguese FC Porto should arrive in February, maybe followed by another.

The Saints are also interested in Marconi's transfer-listed Ernie Campbell and Canberra City's strapping Tony Henderson.

Some spectacular bids have failed: an inquiry for Adelaide City's brilliant Gary Marocchi was rebuffed with a plain "not for any price" reply.

A very positive result is the near completion of Stage 1 of the club's new stadium at Barton Park, just behind Mascot airport.

While the grandstand will not be completed for at least another year, the ground is already in good enough shape to be used in March.

The playing surface will be by far the best in Sydney; rows of individual seats have been installed on one side; the modern dressing rooms and pressroom are all completed.

The Saints are also in the process of launching a massive promotional and marketing drive in their district.

A small but interesting facet of their preparations is a new, US-type jersey which will bear the names of the players on the back as well as large, distinct numbers.

The Saints are also planning to publish a weekly journal covering not just their PSL team but also the entire St George Amateur Association — the first such attempt in Sydney soccer.

The coaching trio of Ilja Takac (first), Frank Lang (reserves) and Mike Johnson (district juniors) is already hard at work and their target is the top where, they say, the Saints belong.

— A.D.



Harry Williams

Manecas back in May with Hakoah

— By Keith Gilmour

Manecas, 1977 guest player for Eastern Suburbs Hakoah, is not far from the minds of club officials.

There is the hope that he will be able to negotiate his release by the time the Portuguese season ends in April.

Last season he showed some great touches, but he was not here long enough to be seen at his best.

Manecas is all skills, and although not a tough performer, he would certainly be one if he settled down to Australian soccer. The club has returned goalkeeper Malcolm Haynes to Sutherland, from whom he was on loan to fill the vacancy left by Todd Clarke's injury.

For Haynes it is not the end

of his Philips League ambitions.

It would not surprise to see the 193 cm (6ft 4in) giant back on the scene later.

He experienced too much travel by going to Adelaide and on to Canberra and then back to Sydney in the first national league season.

He was every bit good enough to fill a place in the first champion side of the Philips League.

Hakoah will not be without their problems in trying to maintain their top rating.

Alec Robertson went back to Scotland as his wife was missing her family.

Bertie Lutton, replaced in the final key game of the season in an incident that coach Gerry Chaldi quickly regretted, is now with South Melbourne.

Hakoah will play a serious trial against South Melbourne at Middle Park on January 29.

Signing of Graham Norris from Western Suburbs is designed to boost striking power.

They have Terry Smith in front, Murray Barnes to come from the deep, and now Norris.

Strangely enough, striker Norris played some of his best matches later in the season when he knocked the ball around the midfield with more skill than many would have given him credit for.

Andrew Lederer will be again in charge of the team's technical direction.

Earlier he had indicated that because of business pressures — managing director of Presto and director of Petersville — he might stand down but since then has been persuaded to change his mind.



John Stevenson

Scots, Greek join Olympic

— By Andrew Dettre

Sydney Olympic will have a new coach, a new team and a smart new strip when they face the 1978 season.

Tommy Anderson, who chalked up successes with both Auburn and APIA, has once again decided to mix coaching with writing and will set out to achieve the "impossible": to create a winning Greek side.

He has signed two players in Scotland, both due here early February: Stuart Markland, 29, a sweeper from Montrose and Derek Laing, 22, from Dundee FC, a striker.

Markland, who earlier played with Dundee United — also in the UEFA Cup — will have the task of making fans forget their favourite son George Gibson, still hobbling on crutches after his multiple leg fracture of last year, his third in his career.

Also joining the Anderson camp may be Alan Ainslie, the polished Western Suburbs midfielder with the most "educated" left foot in the country and Paul Coton, the burly St George stopper.

Anderson has also secured free-scoring Bill Pirie for yet another guesting stint, involving 10 or 12 matches and Trevor Thompson, 23, West Bromwich Albion's midfielder, both will be here in May.

Olympic's perennial search for a Greek hero could well have been fruitful: they expect a "big name" to appear for them for at least two months.

On the debit side is the departure of Ray Botham, now back in England due to family reasons, the almost certain demise of Gibson and the likely transfer of Jim Izatt (Melita) and Bernie Cullerton (unknown destination).

Anderson is emphatic that Olympic will not release Newcastle-born Joe Senkalski to the new PSL club up north.

"They'd have to sell the grandstand to pay for him," he said this week.

Richard Bell is now completely fit and, says Anderson, will be back at his pre-injury best of 1976.

Also training with the squad — four nights a week in Centennial Park — is former Canterbury player Harry Xipollitas, now back from Greece.

To give the team a face-lift, Olympic have ordered a new strip of blue and white hoops in the Queens Park Rangers tradition with white shorts and socks.

For the first time ever, Olympic's constant financial problems may ease somewhat: they have moved into their licensed club premises, the former Waterloo and Alexandria Businessmen's Club which they are leasing at a bargain figure.

The only thing missing from their line-up is a competent assistant coach.

Frank Malone had to bow out, due to business commitments: he has become a Ford sales manager.

Now Anderson is hoping that he will find a suitable replacement matching his own enthusiasm and disciplined approach to the game.



Richard Bell

Gloom about Youth Cup

There was gloom in the Australian Federation camp after the Oceania winners were included with Israel and the third South American team in a play-off for a place in the 1979 FIFA Coca-Cola World Youth finals.

The situation was found to be somewhat better when FIFA promised to come to the party in helping with costs for the Oceania and the elimination tournament.

Fiji are a late entrant, so they and New Zealand, Taiwan and Australia will fight out the preliminaries.

Australia would favour New Zealand as the venue. Taiwan would not be allowed into Australia for matches.

If Australia is successful — and New Zealand particularly will be difficult to handle especially if they play under home conditions — the matches against Israel and the South Americans are bound to be played here.

Local feeling is that inclusion of the South Americans with two widely spaced Asia-Oceania nations to vye for a position does not lend much weight to the status of a small



Confederation area such as Oceania.

The ASF would do well to consider Brisbane, Newcastle, Wollongong or Perth for the matches, if they are played in Australia.

All games must be completed by December 1978, and FIFA was expected to confirm Japan as the final venue at its meeting in Buenos Aires.

Australia has been listed as the likely country for the 1981 finals.

Players have to be born on or after August 1 1959 to be eligible.

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Thursday, January 19: Hungarian Movie — 8.00 p.m.
Friday, January 20: Carolyn Young — 8.00 p.m.
Saturday, January 21: Eurasians — 8.00 p.m.
Sunday, January 22: Disco — 7.30 p.m.
Wednesday, January 25: Disco — 7.30 p.m.
Saturday, January 28: HUNGARIAN NIGHT with MAGDA TOTH and the PALOTAS DANCERS — 8.00 p.m.

FOR MEMBERS' INFORMATION

Western Suburbs Soccer Club



William St., Five Dock
Telephone: 83-8672

Friday, January 20: CABARET DANCE
Saturday, January 21: KATHY LLOYD, well known TV and club personality.
Sunday, January 22: FREDDIE PARIS, top American vocal and TV entertainer.
Tuesday, January 24: EUCHE NIGHT.

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE FOR MEMBERS

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Germany v. Poland opens '78 World Cup

Buenos Aires — Delegates of some countries who attended the World Cup draw here in a theatre may well remember Argentina's capital as their lucky city, not just that of fine air as its name implies.

West Germany, Poland, Holland and, to some extent, Scotland, have been given an almost untroubled passage into the second round of final eight.

Many others, however, must be slightly dazed over the tough group their teams have drawn.

And these include, strangely, Argentina, the host nation who look anything but certain to finish in the top two of their group, needed to progress one round further.

It's somewhat odd that the four "weaklings" of the tournament — Tunisia, Mexico, Iran and Peru — have been drawn into two groups instead of being spread over the four.

Three teams have a slight advantage by playing their first three matches at the same venue, without the need for any travel: Argentina, Brazil and Holland.

Buenos Aires will see seven matches between June 1 and 11 involving nine teams from three groups — a boon to visiting fans who want to keep domestic travel to a minimum.

How do the groups look now, 131 days before the start of the World Cup?

From Group I almost any two teams can qualify. However, Argentina should get through.

The second qualifier is extremely hard to predict; if the Italians fail to collect three points in their first two matches, Argentina may have no mercy on them on June 10.

The Hungarians in recent years had a good record against France and Italy but France now have a brilliant young side.

Our tip: Argentina, Hungary.

The West Germans and Poles should have it easy in Group II and it wouldn't surprise if their opening match were a tame affair, resulting in the "usual" 0-0 draw the first games so often produce.

If the Mexicans can beat Tunisia, they may go easy against the Germans and concentrate on their last game against Poland.

Our tip: West Germany, Poland.

Group III is a tough one and Spain can expect popular

crowd support against Argentina's "arch rivals", Brazil who, however, will have at least 25,000 of their own fanatics in the seaside resort of Mar del Plata.

The Austrians are improvers but the Swedes have declined in the last year, so the tussle for the second qualifying spot may be between Spain and Austria.

Our tip: Brazil, Spain. In Group IV Holland must be odds on to come first, with or without the tempestuous Johan Cruyff.

For the Scots, the decider will be their first match: if they beat Peru in Cordoba, they will make it.

If they don't, they will have to do it the hard way and down Holland in their third match — a Holland which, by then, should be in easy street anyway after two predictable wins over Iran and Peru.

Our tip: Holland, Scotland.

With the World Cup draw known and digested, national team coaches, managers and others can start plotting their treacherous course in Argentina.

The squads of 40 players will have to be announced to FIFA in April — and the final "plantilla" of 22 players will have to come from that, just before the tournament.

The biggest headache of them all is that of Scotland manager Ally McLeod because so many of his chosen players have already collected one international caution, making them automatic suspensions in Argentina after one more caution.

Donachie, Buchan, Johnston and Masson fall in this category. And to add to the woes of McLeod, his brilliant Celtic fullback McGrain is incapacitated, probably needing a cartilage operation.

Argentina's manager Cesar Menotti is still hedging his bets about his expatriate stars, most of them in France and Spain: he will have to decide soon whom to include, negating his earlier policy of relying purely on domestic talent.

NEXT WEEK: A special compilation showing the past World Cup records of all 16 finalists — don't miss your Soccer World copy!

THESE ARE THE GROUPS

These are the four World Cup groups:

Group I:

Argentina
Hungary
France
Italy

Group II:

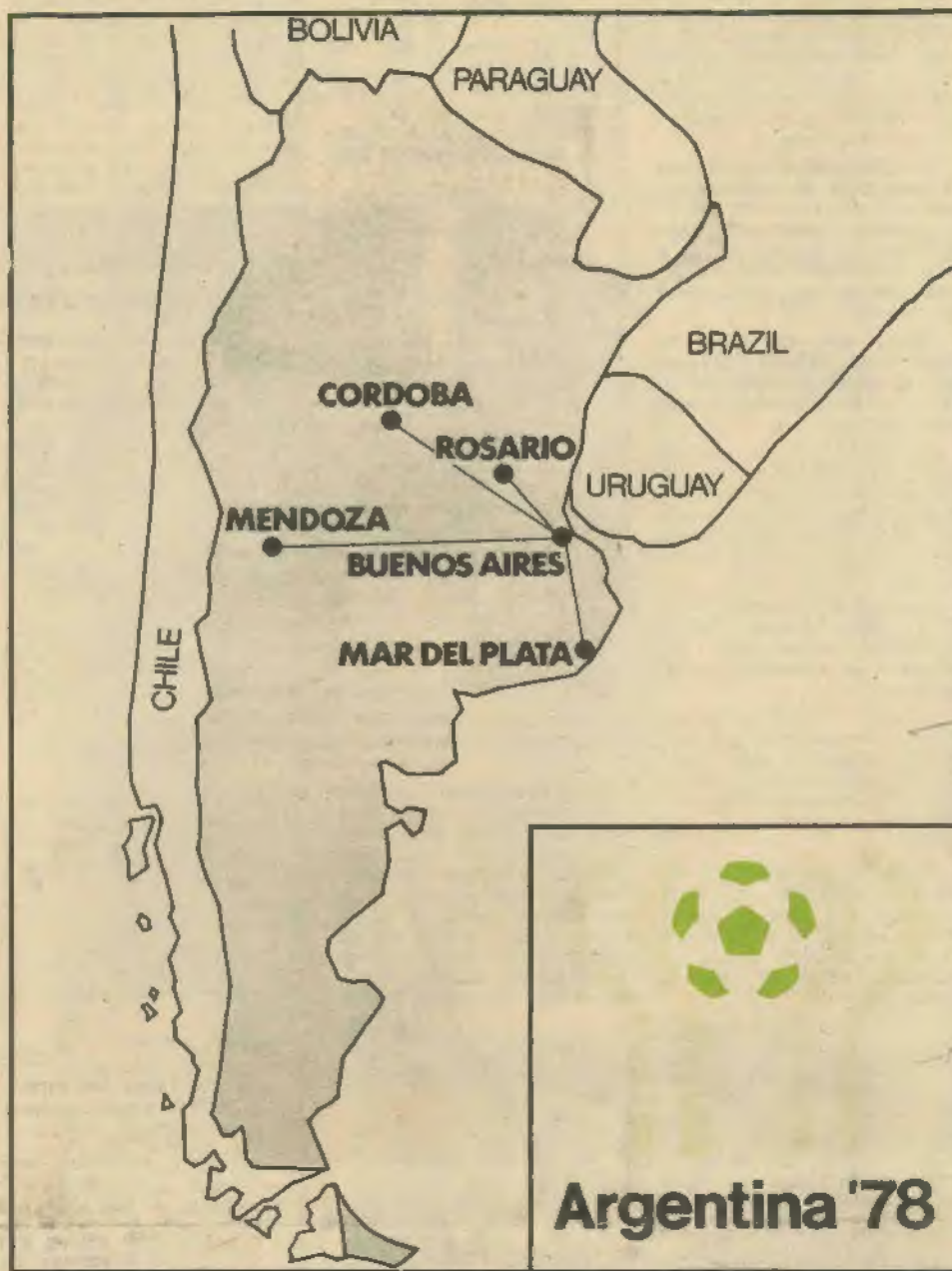
Poland
West Germany
Tunisia
Mexico

Group III:

Austria
Spain
Sweden
Brazil

Group IV:

Holland
Iran
Peru
Scotland



TIME AND DISTANCE CHART				
BUENOS AIRES - ROSARIO	190 miles	30 mins	6 hours	4 hours
BUENOS AIRES - MAR DEL PLATA	250 miles	45 mins	7 hours	5 hours
BUENOS AIRES - CORDOBA	435 miles	1 hour	12 hours	11 hours
BUENOS AIRES - MENDOZA	665 miles	2 1/4 hours	18 hours	17 hours

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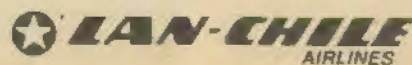
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SCOTS NEED VITAL FIRST MATCH WIN

These are the groups and match schedules in the 1978 World Cup finals, together with venues:

FIRST ROUND:

FINAL ROUND:

Group I:

June 2: Argentina v Hungary (Buenos Aires)
France v Italy (Mar del Plata)
June 6: Argentina v France (Buenos Aires)
Italy v Hungary (Mar del Plata)
June 10: Argentina v Italy (Buenos Aires)
France v Hungary (Mar del Plata)

Group II:

June 1: West Germany v Poland (Buenos Aires)
June 2: Tunisia v Mexico (Rosario)
June 5: Poland v Tunisia (Rosario)
Mexico v West Germany (Cordoba)
June 10: Mexico v Poland (Rosario)
Tunisia v West Germany (Cordoba)

Group III:

June 3: Spain v Austria (Buenos Aires)
Sweden v Brazil (Mar del Plata)
June 7: Austria v Sweden (Buenos Aires)
Brazil v Spain (Mar del Plata)
June 11: Sweden v Spain (Buenos Aires)
Brazil v Austria (Mar del Plata)

Group IV:

June 3: Peru v Scotland (Cordoba)
Iran v Holland (Mendoza)
June 7: Scotland v Iran (Cordoba)
Holland v Peru (Mendoza)
June 11: Peru v Iran (Cordoba)
Scotland v Holland (Mendoza)

Group A:

June 14: Buenos Aires: 2nd Group II v 1st Group I
Cordoba: 1st Group III v 2nd Group IV
June 18: Buenos Aires: 1st Group I v 1st Group III
Cordoba: 2nd Group IV v 2nd Group II
June 21: Buenos Aires: 2nd Group IV v 1st Group I
Cordoba: 1st Group III v 2nd Group II

Group B:

June 14: Rosario: 1st Group II v 2nd Group I
Mendoza: 2nd Group III v 1st Group IV
June 18: Rosario: 2nd Group I v 2nd Group III
Mendoza: 1st Group IV v 1st Group II
June 21: Rosario: 1st Group IV v 2nd Group I
Mendoza: 2nd Group III v 1st Group II
June 24: Buenos Aires: Play for third place between second place teams in Group A and B
June 25: Buenos Aires: Final between winners of Groups A and B

CLUB PATROL

Edited by
STEPHEN DETTRE
Ph: 406-4551

Goalie STEVE WATSON and midfielder PETER COLEMAN, both from Granville, have joined Croatia who are also expecting three players from Britain shortly. Two were suggested by ex-Croatia star John Wignall and the third comes at the strong recommendation of his brother — fullback Bob Russell.

SUTHERLAND have secured a substantial sponsorship reportedly worth over \$20,000.

A special meeting of YUGAL-PRAGUE on Sunday will set a new course for the club and will make its coaching appointments for the season.

Manly will be hosts to Croatia on Sunday, January 22 at CROMER PARK for a friendly match combined with a picnic.

Croatia star NICK FENOUGHTY is still playing with an English club — but secretary Lionel Brown is hopeful to see the return of the elegant striker by the time the season proper begins.

Perhaps only Tommy Smith has more in his stable: **CROATIA** have now 120 players in training in all grades.

Yugal president M. BANOVICH said his club had settled a debt of about \$7000 with the NSW Federation late last year — and scoffed at reports that the amount involved was \$35,000.

Manly have a new coach for 1978 in RICHARD ALAGICH. ROGER HOY, who coached the team last year, resigned from the position and is reportedly going to live in Queensland.

Just for interest's sake: the INTER MONARO team plays in green and black striped shirts, black shorts and green socks... so refreshing to find an Italian team that doesn't play in light blue.



APIA's young goalie MIKE FRASER is playing with the leading West German amateur club Godesberg, a satellite town of Bonn.

Manly have lost two players, but regained two others. Both **BILL HUTCHISON**, through injury, and **KEN MALLAM**, through business commitments, retired at the end of last season. However, to fill their gaps both **ALAN CRAWFORD** and **STEVE GOSLING** are making comebacks this year. Alan took a

year off to build his house, while Steve spent 1977 concentrating on his accountancy course, which he passed.

Auburn seem resigned to the fact that they will lose STEVE HOSZOWSKI this year to one of the Phillips League clubs. Although nothing concrete has been set down, there have been several 'nibbles', and understandably Steve is keen to move on.

CROMER PARK should now be one of the best grounds in Sydney this year after receiving a massive amount of 'treatment' throughout the off-season in the form of top dressing and overall care. Also the press have not been forgotten and a raised press box will be constructed to give a clear view of the playing field.

Auburn suffered a severe blow during the past few months when they had to let **JOE MARSTON** leave the club over the matter of coaching payment for 1978. As a result of small crowds last year the club couldn't meet Joe's financial demands. The new coach is former second grade coach **JOE MARTIN** who has been with the club for a number of years in that position.

Congratulations to **DOUG UTJESENOVIC** and his wife on the birth of a son, christened Sasha. They already had two daughters.

Auburn have had something of a minor reshuffle in the club hierarchy during the end-of-season break, with **JOHN WOOD** leaving the position of secretary. However, his post is now filled by **DEREK BEDWELL**, another enthusiastic supporter of the club, who will be spending his first year on the committee.

It was reported that former Prague star **BRIAN TRISTRAM** died suddenly a few weeks ago.

The newcomers to the State League this year, **INTER MONARO**, are still keyed up and eager to get started in the Ampol Cup. In fact, they feel that the local fans are also relishing the start of the season and the club thinks it would be a good idea, and a good PR job, if some of the Queensland club's Ampol Cup matches were played in Queensland.

The committee of the INTER MONARO club is justifiably proud that five of their first team players are of Italian origin, being born in Australia of Italian parents. This is not only good for the 'flavour' of the team, but also helps with attracting crowds who can identify with an Italian team.

It seems a pity, soccerwise, but perhaps the greatest individual talent to come to the fore during last year's semifinals, final and grand final, may not get a chance to show his wares to a greater audience in the Phillips League. No, I'm not talking about Abonyi, or even Tracey, but **ALEC McMILLAN**, the polished Auburn sweeper. It was mainly through his heady influence that Auburn made it to the grand final playing some fine football and entertaining the football connoisseurs with a range of skills not always available even in the Phillips League. All that can be said is... lucky Auburn.

A short, short story based on such absurdly fictitious characters and events that are unlikely even in Australia.

Once the ball starts rolling

It was after the second training session of the new season that Tom Krimelbach, the promising 18-year-old reserve striker of Croesus United, approached coach Ivica Iovic with a request for a new pair of bootlaces.

Iovic patted the blond boy on the back and promised him two pairs, one black and one blue. Krimelbach left happily, striding into the dressing room where he mentioned the matter to his friend, Frank Montepittini, getting dressed alongside. Montepittini, who had already played three games in the firsts, two as a late sub, said nothing but could hardly wait to see Iovic alone.

"You know my contract expires," he said, "and I want my car expenses paid by the club in future. I wouldn't ask for this but I know that Krimelbach was promised two new pairs of boots."

"No, only bootlaces," Iovic said, "but I'll see what we can do about your car expenses."

Two days later Iovic told Montepittini that the club had approved a weekly car allowance of \$5 and the boy decided to celebrate with a thickshake, malted, just outside the ground. He was slurping the last frothy bits when in walked Oscar Tucevski, the team's young, talented left fullback. Montepittini couldn't contain himself with the great news and mumbled something about his car allowance to a stunned Oscar, listening to the news with rapidly growing gloom.

As soon as he got home, he telephoned the coach. "That signing on fee, \$250 for the season," he said as a way of hello, "well, it won't do. I want at least \$1000 or I join Koorawatha Rangers who are building a great team. If Montepittini is worth a car, I'm worth a lousy \$1000."

"But he isn't getting a car," Iovic protested. "All he's getting is..."

"I'm not jealous, of course, but it's bloody ridiculous when all we hear is how broke the club is."

At Thursday's training session Iovic drew Tucevski aside and told him that the club had agreed to the \$1000. "But don't tell the others because it could create a lot of bad feeling."

"Of course not," Tucevski said and as they began running the first lap, told Ken Gumbleby, the team's stopper about his new contract. Gumbleby took a few more steps, then grabbed his calf, pulled up and sat down in the grass. Iovic rushed to him.

"Where does it hurt?" he asked.

"In the bloody pocket, that's where," Gumbleby said. "Do you think I'm crazy to sacrifice three nights a week for \$4000 signing on fee when that clumsy idiot Tucevski is getting \$2000? I want to see the committee about my contract."

"Tucevski is getting \$1000," the perspiring coach said. "And anyway..."

"No anyway," Gumbleby interrupted. "I want the committee."

The following Tuesday Croesus United's weekly committee meeting started with the Gumbleby case. The player, in tight jeans, T-shirt of the University of Bangladesh and sneakers, strode in with a casual 'hi'. The club president Bill V. Richtelbaum gently offered him a seat but Gumbleby was already seated.

"I came to see you fellows about me contract," he said, "and I want a raise. The \$4000 isn't enough, not for the work I did for the team. Last season I played in most games, was sent off only three times and almost scored a goal. So I want more. About \$12,000 for signing my X on the line plus the bonuses. And that's not that much when you consider that blokes on oilrigs in the Tasman earn \$900 a week plus tucker."



"I see you are down here to play, so when are you going to start?"

"Mister Gumbleby," the president said, "do you think we have all that money?"

"Sure you have," the almost-star replied. "Anyway, the pokies give it to you. And I've put enough into them to buy you Cruyff twice over."

A few minutes later, with Gumbleby waiting outside, the committee met behind closed doors and decided to tough it out in the Nixonian way: they won't budge. Not a penny more to Gumbleby than \$11,900. And to raise the money four special fund-raising evenings will have to be arranged.

Gumbleby graciously accepted and walked into the club's bar, ordering a special Rothschild Chateau Flies champagne, selling at the bargain basement price of \$60 and offered a glass to Marcelo Hernandez, the team's dark-skinned Venezuelan ace. Marcelo at first thought it was Gumbleby's birthday, then found out about his new contract and his skin got even darker. He emptied his glass, muttered a coarse adios and walked straight into the committee room where the young

secretary was just placing an iced poultice on the president's forehead.

"Senors," said Marcelo darkly, "I am not ze man to complain bati I must say zat I no appy with your club. If Gumbleby can earn some \$20,000 a yir, I zink I must to receive more. Not muchos more, about \$50,000 and egg-penses and apartemante and autocar. Zis is average in Caracas for juniors with no talent. Please not to forget senors that last sezon I, Marcelo Hernandez, score two great goals and hit ze voodoo four time."

"Marcelo," president Richtelbaum groaned, "our whole budget is about \$40,000 for the year. And if you alone..."

"Ah, senor Bumriket," Marcelo waved, "you very rich man, eh, and presidente, eh? Marcelo poor, many mouths to feed, poor emigrant dos Caracas, eh? Senors, I vill wait outside, please demonstrate your goodwill. If no, I unhappy but returnato to Venezuela."

The committee members looked at the stunned Richtelbaum who, with lifeless eyes, stared into space. The silence was deafening.

"He is a bastard, blackmailing bastard," the technical director said, "but we need him. Who knows, he may score another goal one of these years. And if the president could bring some sacrifice..."

Richtelbaum staggered to his feet and reached for the phone.

"Harry," he said quietly, "we are having a bit of a problem here at the club. How does BHP stand at the exchange?"

"Five seventy," the voice belonging to his broker said. "How many do you want?"

"Sell 10,000 and get me the money tomorrow but not a word to my wife."

Gentle applause broke out: Richtelbaum's gesture temporarily saved the team. But the president, with a disturbed look in his eyes, didn't react. Like a man who'd met a train in a tunnel, he aged 20 years; his temple was grey and dry. "Insane, insane," he kept muttering to himself as he shuffled into the bar for a stiff brandy.

Next to him was young Krimelbach, sipping his usual after-training coke. He recognised the president who was a rarity at the bar.

"Mr Richtelbaum," how nice to see you, sir. Do you think we'll have a great season?"

Richtelbaum didn't hear it; he was looking into his glass, searching for an elusive answer in the dark brown brandy.

"Oh, another thing, sir," Krimelbach continued, "if you don't mind, that is, I don't want to worry the coach with this but if he's upstairs at your meeting, I wonder if you'd pass a message to him? Just tell him please, sir, that me mum bought me those bootlaces and he shouldn't bother getting me any."

— A.D.

Next week we look at the Rothmans State League in greater depth — don't miss this issue.

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NSW Federation Official Program

AMPOL CUP 1978

NEXT WEEK:

ROUND 1:

Friday, January 27

Arncliffe Scots v Ku-Ring-Gai 7.30 pm, Garside Park
APIA v Toongabbie 9.15 pm, Garside Park

Sunday, January 29

Auburn v M'ville Olympic 2.30 pm, Garside Park
Granville v Melita Eagles 4.15, Garside Park

Monday, January 20

Croatia v Revesby Workers 2.30 pm, Cromer Park
Manly v Monaro 4.15 pm, Cromer Park



ROTHMANS HOTTING UP

There is a feeling in the APIA camp that they on the way back.

Guarded statements have been made that four top players will be signed for 1978, and that events could change so that the club will be a strong contender for national league the following year.

Premiers and champions Croatia are not without their problems.

Goalkeeper Don Smith and "Mr Skills" Ian Stone are looking for places in Newcastle's Phillips League team.

Will Nick Fenoughty return to the club from England?

Will Almos Maratovic come back to top form after recovering from a broken leg?

Melita and Toongabbie, as well as Monaro are ambitious newcomers.

How will Manly, Granville and Yugal stand the pace?

Which Auburn players are still overseas, and will they be back in time for the premiership?

John Watkiss' Sutherland team — are they certain for the "Final Four"?

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Amigos may join fold

Sydney's vast South American community may at last have a team in the NSW Federation competition.

Federation president Karl Rodny and a spokesman of the Chilean Club, Luis Solis, met this week to find a way for the admission of the Chileans.

The most likely avenue is through amalgamation with an existing district club.

An estimated 35,000 South Americans live in Sydney — the majority from Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil.

They have their own competition with clubs bearing illustrious names such as Penarol, Nacional, Wanderers, etc.

Last season some of their matches attracted crowds exceeding 3,000.

If the NSW Federation can ease the amigos into its competition, it will do a great service to soccer, not just these soccer-crazy migrants.

Clubs interested can contact Solis on 888-5605.

Not only roses in Adelaide's garden

— From Vic Migliaccio

The launching of the PSL was a complete success in Adelaide and anyone who would have suggested in 1976 that a soccer match played between two local sides would attract nearly 14,000 spectators would have been classed as a dreamer — especially as the previous record was around the 6000 mark.

Yet, in a matter of months, it did happen. On two occasions when West Adelaide and Adelaide City met there were over 13,000 people in attendance — truly a fantastic achievement.

At this stage the future of both Adelaide PSL representative clubs looks much brighter than it did this time last year.

It appears that for the Adelaide teams this coming season the sky is the limit.

While everything seems smooth and promising with the PSL, a rather sad and disturbing 16th annual report was issued by the SA Soccer Federation.

The report stated that the SASF suffered a financial loss of \$10,999.94 for the period ended on September 30.

It is obvious that the Federation is facing a difficult period unless the public returns to the local games.

Unless the men at the top recognise that they need the working co-operation of the two PSL clubs, the game as a whole will suffer in the long run.

Local clubs should also realise that it is wrong to put such a high price on the heads of players who are sought by the PSL clubs.

By putting a reasonable fee on the players' heads, they can make them stars and boost our game on.



Gary Marocchi, the brilliant young Adelaide City star.

Going Dutch

There's no democracy — and certainly no equality — in soccer. These are the authenticated annual earnings of today's Dutch stars with their clubs in brackets:

Cruyff (Barcelona)	\$420,000	Rep (Bastia)	\$32,000
Neeskens (Barcelona)	\$165,000	R. Van de Kerkhof (PSV)	\$32,000
Rensenbrink (Anderlecht)	\$49,000	Van Beveren (PSV)	\$32,000
		Krol (Ajax)	\$32,000
		Peters (Alkmaar)	\$32,000
		Jansen (Feyenoord)	\$29,000
		Geels (Ajax)	\$29,000
		Haan (Anderlecht)	\$25,000
		Van Hanegem (Alkmaar)	\$25,000

Hope you like our new look

With our first issue in 1976, we appear in a smart new suit, under a new masthead. SW is now computer set and printed on rotary offset.

We hope that our readers will like and appreciate the changes.

Apart from "spot color" on at least four pages, we will be using many more photos than was possible under the letterpress technique.

The new look and modern production technique will surely appeal to our advertisers also.

Now our next aim is to increase the size of the paper to 12 pages, as soon as the advertising space warrants it.

AMPOL CUP STARTS IN S.AUST.

The opening of the 1978 soccer season will get underway on Friday night at the Hindmarsh Stadium with the kick-off of the Ampol Cup.

The series will last 10 weeks and will be contested by the top six clubs from last year's SASF first division.

Two games will be played each Friday night with the early match starting at 7.30 pm (with the exception of Feb 10 when there is only one game on the program).

Ever since the Ampol Cup began 17 years ago, it has always proved to be a great crowd puller — until last season when Juventus (Adelaide City) and Hellas (West Adelaide) joined the PSL and did not compete.

This season, however even without Juventus and Hellas, the opening night has reached a point of excitement.

The big question, however, is: will it last throughout the series?

Whatever happens it's almost certain that Juventus and Hellas will enter teams in the Ampol Cup next season; for the sake of our sponsor this must happen.

The opening match on Friday's program will be contested by Croatia and Enfield Victoria.

The Victoria team is coached by Ian Sim, who last season achieved the best result in the club's history, by finishing third on the league table.

Croatia have a new coach in Charlie Welker.

In the later game Azzurri will play last season's champions Polonia.

Peter Jaksa who at the end of last year parted company with Croatia is now coaching Azzurri who finished a rather disappointing sixth on the league table.

Azzurri have been very active on the local recruiting market and already have made three significant signings in Ross Russo from Beograd, Chris Marolev from Elizabeth City and Ric Migliaccio from Croatia.

Azzurri could be the league pacemaker for 1978.

Next Friday (Jan 27) fixtures: 7.30 pm Victoria v USC Lion, 9 pm Beograd v Azzurri.

On Saturday, PSL club West Adelaide will play a friendly game against Beograd at 4.00 pm at the Beograd's Woodville reserve ground, Minns Rd, Woodville.

— V.M.

Rooney and Hall gain soccer writers' trophy

Jimmy Rooney's great 1977 season resulted in yet another award and trophy for him — the magnificent Wedgwood bowl, presented to the Marconi star earlier this month at a dinner given by the Australian Soccer Press Association (NSW Branch).

Rooney beat Attila Abonyi to the award, a magnificent Grecian-style bowl worth \$600 and presented by ASPA ex-president David Jack.

Runner-up Abonyi, though not present at the dinner, won a set of silver cross pens, donated by Don Morrison on behalf of Tallerman and Co.

The award for the State's best under 21 player went to Sutherland's 17-year-old Craig Hall from Chris Cassettari (Manly), Mike Fraser (APIA), Steve Meades (Sutherland) and Gary Fairclough (Auburn).

Leading soccer officials at the dinner included Brian Le Fevre, Ken Ferguson, Peter McCann and John Frank.

Before the presentation, the annual meeting of ASPA elected Martin Royal (ABC) as its new president with David Jack (Sun) and Andrew Dettre (Soccer World) as vice presidents, Keith Gilmour (Soccer World) as secretary, Peter Hazelwood (2SM) as assistant secretary and Peter Scott (Jewish Times) as treasurer.

Some 95 percent of soccer writers and commentators in Sydney belong to the association.



Jimmy Rooney and Craig Hall at the dinner held by the Australian Soccer Press Association (NSW).

PHOTO BY ALEX VESIC

Coke adds life to the winning goal.



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Dane Europe's top player

The diminutive — 1.67 cm tall — Danish striker of Borussia Monchengladbach, Allan Simonsen was voted to be Europe's "Player of the Year" in a ballot organised, for the 22nd year running, by the Paris weekly "France Football".

Simonsen, 24, is the first Dane ever to win the award — or to be even in the top three.

Fast, intelligent, technically polished, the little Dane hails from the small town of Vejle.

For about one year after his arrival in Monchengladbach, he had difficulties finding his feet. At one stage his manager, Hannes Weisweiler offered him on cheap transfer to Nurnberg whose coach, Tilkowski, declined.

"If Weisweiler wants to get rid of him, there must be something wrong with this Simonsen," he said.

Since then, both experts have been proved wrong: Simonsen is a truly brilliant striker and the darling of the Monchengladbach fans ahead of such local heroes as Vogts, Bonhof and Wimmer.

This was the 1977 poll result:

	Pts
1. Simonsen (Gladbach)	74
2. Keegan (Hamburg)	71
3. Platini (Nancy)	70
4. Bettge (Juventus)	39
5. Cruyff (Barcelona)	23



Scotland manager Ally McLeod, who tips a Scotland v Hungary World Cup final.

STORM IN THE CUP

UEFA has prepared the "draw" for the 1978-1980 European championships — and created an instant storm.

Some countries, notably England and West Germany, received dream draws; other groups are almost identical with the recent World Cup compositions.

Although UEFA's Italian president Francchi has denied that the draw was manipulated, most European countries refuse to believe him and some are even demanding a re-draw.

These are the groups:

1. England, Denmark, Ireland, Bulgaria, Nth Ireland.
2. Belgium, Norway, Austria, Scotland, Portugal.
3. Yugoslavia, Cyprus, Rumania, Spain.
4. Holland, Iceland, Poland, West Germany, Switzerland.
5. Czechoslovakia, Luxembourg, Sweden, France.
6. USSR, Finland, Hungary, Greece.
7. West Germany, Malta, Wales, Turkey.

Italy have qualified automatically as the host country.

WORLD NEWS

BRITAIN

● Scotland manager Ally McLeod, just back from a fact-finding tour of South America, on the World Cup chances: "The Argentinians are too individualistic, the Brazilians still have no team, the Germans can't replace Beckenbauer and Muller, the Dutch are too conceited, the Italians too rhapsodical. So I tip a Hungary v Scotland final."

● Former England manager Walter Winterbottom, now director of the Sports Council, was knighted in the New Year's honours list.

● Colin Bell, now having recovered from his nagging injury, has resumed playing with Manchester City — and manager Tony Book has a new post for him: at libero (freeback) where, he says, "he can play until he's 90."

● In Scott Enderby, the youngest ever player appeared in the English FA Cup: the 15-year-old high school boy kept goal for Kettering Town in his team's 1-0 win over Tilbury.

● Gordon Jago, Millwall's manager, has signed a three-year contract with Tampa Bay Rowdies; he will earn about \$200,000 in that period. Southampton's former England striker Peter Osgood also joined the Florida club.

● Queens Park Rangers have placed a transfer fee of \$750,000 on Gerry Francis to discourage inquiries for the former England skipper.

● To celebrate their centenary in August, Manchester United have invited an illustrious guest — Real Madrid.

● Last year, 7,391 "fans" were arrested at English soccer grounds, the individual record going to Chelsea with 1,200.

● Roger Davies, the Belgian Bruges' English striker, returned home and joined Leicester.

EAST BLOC

● Milan Miljanic, former Real Madrid boss now back in his native Belgrade, is one of the candidates for the Yugoslav national team manager's job.

● A poll taken among first division coaches has elected Ujpest's 22-year-old striker Andras Torocsik as Hungary's most brilliant player of 1977.

● The Budapest daily "Nepsport" has quizzed the editors of 18 other European sports papers and found that most tip Brazil to win the World Cup ahead of West Germany, Holland, Argentina, Italy and France.

● Former Yugoslav international and Red Star goalie Bosko Kajganic died in December in a car smash in Turkey where he played since early 1977 with Galatasaray.

● Frantisek Havranek is the new manager of Czechoslovakia. He was formerly with Brno and the Polish Ruch Chorzow.

● The first international of the USSR in 1978 will be on March 8 in Frankfurt against West Germany. The team's manager is still Nikita Simonyan, despite the USSR's elimination from the World Cup.

● Kazimierz Deyna, captain of Poland, has gained 92 full 'caps' so far and is certain to reach the century this year.

THE AMERICAS

● Mario Zagalo, now back from Kuwait in Rio, has been offered the job of technical director, assisting coach Claudio Coutinho. However, Zagalo has declined saying that he is either fully in charge of Brazil or isn't interested at all.

● Soccer has made giant strides in the USA — but it's still far from big-time with TV stations. Three of the networks, CBS, NBC and ABC, have signed a contract worth \$510 million to screen matches of

American Football (gridiron) over the next four years.

● The Cosmos club have generously agreed to release Beckenbauer to West Germany for the World Cup — for a "token" sum of \$900,000... the Germans replied with a polite "nein".

● Don Megson, former manager of Bristol Rovers, has been signed to shape the destiny of the Portland Timbers in the USA.

● Francisco Marinho, the brilliant blond Brazilian fullback, has been dropped from the World Cup squad by manager Claudio Coutinho — for the player's turbulent private life.

● One-time West German ace Helmut Haller, 38, is likely to join a US club.

● Cesar Menotti, manager of Argentina, has named 14 players whose places are certain in the World Cup squad: Gatti, Bailey, Carrascosa, Olguin, Pasarella, Tarantini, Houseman, Killer, Luque, Bertoni, Galvan, Villa, Galego and Ortiz. Others in the running include Kempes, Ayala, Wolff, Carnevali, Brindisi, Guerini, Piz Piazza and Bargas — all of whom play in Europe.

● Flamengo's blond ace Zico was the top scorer in the 1977 Brazilian championship, with 48 goals to his credit.

WEST EUROPE

● Kevin Keegan's German career is in danger: after having been sent off in a friendly against VfB Luebeck, Keegan is facing an eight-match suspension. His crime: a karate chop to the neck of a giggling opponent in the 6th minute of the match.

● A major scandal is brewing, this time in France where Daniel Hechter, president of St Germain (Paris) threatens to disclose all kinds of illegal and clandestine financial operations in French soccer. Hechter is charged with having cheated the internal revenue office by concealing a part of his team's gate takings and with having paid the players more than allowed by the association (FFF).

● Juventus of Italy are keen to keep fighting for the lifting of a ban on foreign players. Club president Giampiero Boniparti said that the first two he would

consider for signing would be Kevin Keegan and Klaus Fischer.

● Life begins at — well, when exactly? The top West German club Werder Bremen, to replace their dismissed coach, former international Hans Tilkowski (43), have engaged Fred Schulz who is 74...

● For the first time ever, the annual youth tournament at Viareggio, Italy, will see the appearance of a Chinese team.

● West Germany and England will meet on Feb 22 in Munich in a friendly international.

Tremendous blow to Holland: Johan Neeskens, the Barcelona star, had to have a cartilage operation just before Christmas and may not be ready to resume until March.

● Strike action is likely if the Greek FA doesn't meet the demands of all professional players for the establishment of a welfare and pension system.

● The Spanish FA has extended the contract of their national team manager, Hungarian-born Laszlo Kubala until July 1980 — at an annual salary of \$60,000 plus bonuses.



River Plate stadium, main venue for this year's World Cup in Argentina.

West Germany Europe's No 1

The highly authoritative Paris-based "France Football" has once again compiled its European ranking of national teams — and gave West Germany first place.

This is the FF list for 1977:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. West Germany | 25. Finland and North Ireland |
| 2. Holland | 27. Belgium and Turkey |
| 3. Spain | 29. Iceland |
| 4. Austria and France | 30. Cyprus |
| 5. Hungary | 31. Luxembourg and Malta |
| 6. East Germany and Scotland | |
| 7. Italy and Rumania | |
| 8. Portugal | |
| 9. Poland and USSR | |
| 10. England and Wales | |
| 11. Bulgaria and Eire | |
| 12. Denmark, Sweden and Switzerland | |
| 13. Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia | |
| 14. Greece and Norway | |

Like all such lists, this one has many subjective elements and tends to ignore the opponents' strengths.

For example, three of Austria's wins were against lowly sides such as Greece, Turkey and Malta while three of the five Italian victories

were against Finland (twice) and Luxembourg.

England, Poland and the USSR have slipped during 1977. Sweden, Czechoslovakia (reigning European champions) and Yugoslavia have actually crashed; the Yugoslavs have won only three of their 12 matches and lost, at home, to the USSR, West Germany, Rumania and Spain!

From the FF results, we have compiled this table, showing the percentage of points gained by the top 10 teams:

	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	%
West Germany	11	7	3	1	23	9	77.2
Holland	6	5	1	—	10	1	91.6
Spain	8	4	1	1	7	3	76
Austria	8	5	3	—	17	3	81.2
France	7	3	3	1	10	4	84.2
Hungary	15	9	3	3	33	20	70
East Germany	10	6	3	1	19	8	75
Scotland	10	6	2	2	18	9	70
Italy	7	5	—	2	16	5	71.4
Rumania	9	5	2	2	21	11	68.6

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